

— City Stats —

## Home Performance with ENERGY STAR

Customers: **273**  
in Columbia



Peak Reduction: **190**  
Kilowatts



Energy Reduction: **275,225**  
Kilowatt-Hours



Customers Spent: **\$963,102**  
In FY2020 on Home Performance with ENERGY STAR



To learn more about the City's efficiency programs visit [ColumbiaPowerPartners.com](http://ColumbiaPowerPartners.com), email [Efficiency@CoMo.gov](mailto:Efficiency@CoMo.gov) or call 573.441.5528.

## Water & Light honored for sustained excellence



City of Columbia Water & Light wins fourth ENERGY STAR honor.

The City of Columbia Water & Light department prides itself on taking a community-centric approach in ensuring that all of its customers have the opportunity to make energy efficiency improvements to their homes.

Water & Light relies on a whole-home approach to assess a customer's electric and water consumption and to make suggestions on efficiency improvements. When customers have control of their energy consumption, they have more flexibility about where or how to spend their money, have less stress and have a more comfortable home.

When the COVID-19 pandemic began last year, Water & Light made it a priority to continue to serve its customers in a safe manner, providing virtual education and program resources to help customers control their costs.

Columbia Water & Light developed protocols for the safety of contractors, staff and participants. Water & Light was able to provide sustained service to 273 customers last year, only a slight drop in participation from the previous year.

This focus on health and safety earned Columbia Water & Light the 2021 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Award for Sustained Excellence from the EPA in Energy Efficiency Program Delivery. It is the department's fourth straight Partner of the Year award and the second straight nod for Sustained Excellence.

"We are honored to receive this distinguished award for a second straight year," Utility Services Manager Brandon Renaud said. "We look forward to building on this achievement and continuing the tradition of energy efficiency in Columbia."

The Sustained Excellence Award is the highest honor bestowed by the ENERGY STAR program, celebrating a group that has made a long-term commitment to fighting climate change and protecting public health through energy efficiency.

## COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION

### CoMo.Gov/COVIDVACCINE

## Parks and Recreation completes improvements at Cosmo-Bethel Park



A replaced shelter and walkways showcase some of the recent improvements made to Cosmo-Bethel Park.

Columbia Parks and Recreation has completed a variety of improvements at Cosmo-Bethel Park, 4500 Bethel St.

The park features new surfacing and striping on the tennis courts, a new park entry sign and improvements to the parking lots and walkways. In addition, the small shelter adjacent to the playground was replaced.

The resurfacing and striping of the tennis courts was a joint project with Columbia Public Schools. The City and the school district collaborate on maintenance of the 12-court complex at the park, for both school and public use.

Cosmo-Bethel Park improvements were funded by the voter-approved Park Sales Tax.

For more information, please contact Parks and Recreation at [573.874.7460](tel:573.874.7460).

## Solid Waste Utility offers safe solutions for disposal of large items

Regularly scheduled curbside refuse and recycling collection will generally meet your household needs. In the instances that it doesn't, the City of Columbia Solid Waste Utility offers safe and efficient solutions for the disposal of large items.

Residents can schedule a pickup for bulky items with curbside collection. Bulky items are household items that will not fit in an official City bag, such as sofas, mattresses and tables. This category does not include construction-related materials, felled trees, large automobile parts or hazardous materials. Each residential customer will receive one bulky item pickup per year at no cost. For each subsequent bulky item collection, the first item will incur a \$21.50 fee, with a \$5 fee for each additional item scheduled.

To arrange for a bulky item pickup, please request collection at least one week before your scheduled refuse collection day. Major appliance collection also must be scheduled at least one week before your schedule refuse collection day. Appliances with refrigerant will incur a \$29 fee per item, and items without refrigerant will be charged \$21.50 per item.

Residents with a large amount of material for disposal can request a roll-off container from the Solid Waste Utility. Fees are based on the size of the container and the number of collections. Customers can bring material directly to the landfill for disposal.

To arrange a service from Solid Waste, call [573.874.CITY\(2489\)](tel:573.874.CITY(2489)), email [Waste-Mgmt@CoMo.gov](mailto:Waste-Mgmt@CoMo.gov) or download the [COMO Recycle and Trash app](#). There are also several private companies in the area that provide roll-off container and bulky-item removal services.

## Crime of Opportunity

Vehicles are a bad place to keep valuables—especially if those valuables are firearms. Victims have seen a wide variety of things stolen, including purses, money, electronics, along with several firearms. Criminals can take a little time to enter your car through a jimmied car door, a broken window, or as in many of these cases—an unlocked door. A criminal can later commit more crimes with a stolen gun. We must work together to combat gun violence in our community. If you must store your firearm in the vehicle, there are a few things that you can do to help avoid becoming a victim. Firearms should be stowed out of sight and secured inside a lockbox, which is fixed to the interior of the vehicle. Never leave firearms or valuables of any kind inside glove boxes and/or center consoles.

## Code Corner – Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms are a lifesaving tool. Alarms are required inside each sleeping room, outside the sleeping room in a common area, such as a hallway, and on each floor, including the basement. Smoke alarms installed in one- and two-family dwellings should be replaced not more than 10 years from the date of manufacture or should be replaced if the date of manufacture cannot be determined.

The Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) checks for smoke alarms during rental inspections. Home owners are reminded to make sure they have adequate alarms that are also in working order.

If there is an issue we can help with where you live, you can reach ONS at [573.874.CITY\(2489\)](tel:573.874.CITY(2489)) or [neighborhood@CoMo.gov](mailto:neighborhood@CoMo.gov).



## Global impacts of recycling begin locally

Recycling provides numerous benefits to our community and environment, including conservation of resources and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. But recycling can be inefficient and costly if it is not done correctly. Contamination—putting the wrong items in the wrong recycling receptacle—makes the system counterproductive. If there's too many different materials mixed together and the bundle can't be hand sorted efficiently, it ends up being sent to the landfill.

For the Solid Waste Utility's dual stream program to work most productively, correct separation in the home, office or community is an essential first step. In Columbia, fibers and containers are collected separately. Whether via curbside collection, or at a large bin at an apartment building or a drop-off site, residents are asked to use the appropriate container to keep the streams from commingling.

Fiber products include newspaper, corrugated cardboard, and paper bags. Boxes should be flattened, and customers should remove plastic wraps and liners. Paper plates, napkins and towels cannot be recycled. For curbside collection, paper and cardboard can be bundled in a box or bag.

Containers such as glass bottles and jars, aluminum and steel cans and rigid plastics—plastics you cannot wrap around your fingers—can be recycled in Columbia. Foam packaging, plastic bags and fiber cartons are not accepted. For curbside collection, containers can be placed in the blue bags.

The global impacts of recycling begin locally. We can all make a difference by recycling properly. Visit [CoMo.gov/Utilities/SolidWaste](https://www.como.gov/Utilities/SolidWaste) to learn more.

## Completed GetAbout Columbia collaboration brought more bikeways, pedways and sidewalks to Columbia

GetAbout Columbia was a collaboration between the City of Columbia Public Works and Parks and Recreation departments that allowed the city to improve our network of walking and biking opportunities through infrastructure additions and improvements. The final improvement project for GetAbout Columbia was completed in August of 2020.

In 2006, Columbia, Missouri was selected as one of only four communities in the nation to participate in the Federal Highway Administration's Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot program. Columbia's designation as a pilot city came with \$22.4 million in federal funds to help build infrastructure and establish national standards for public awareness and willingness to use active modes of transportation. In 2012, the Federal Highway Administration extended the highway bill to include an additional \$5.9 million to each of the four pilot communities.

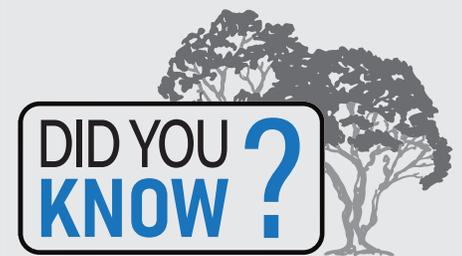
The infrastructure improvement plan included construction of new bikeways, pedways and sidewalks in addition to many other non-motorized transportation projects. Non-motorized transportation projects that were completed include:

- Five major intersection improvements
- 5.5 miles of new sidewalks and pedways
- 77 miles of on-street striped bike lanes
- 9.6 miles of shared-use paths and trails
- An extensive promotion and education program
- Two bike boulevards
- Bicycle parking spots in the downtown area and at local businesses
- Improved signage to heighten visibility of trail access points, connections and street intersection enhancements

For a list of the completed projects, visit [CoMo.gov/PublicWorks/GetAbout-cip/](https://www.como.gov/PublicWorks/GetAbout-cip/).

## Parks and Recreation events

Columbia Parks and Recreation is modifying and adding to the list of community special events to ensure compliance with Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services orders and social distancing guidelines. For current information, please visit [CoMo.gov/ParksandRec](https://www.como.gov/ParksandRec) or call 573.874.7460. You may also visit the Parks and Recreation Facebook page at [facebook.com/ParksandRec](https://www.facebook.com/ParksandRec).



The Parks and Recreation Forestry crew's Adopt-a-Trail program features volunteers working citywide to help remove invasive species along City trails and in City-owned nature areas.

## Board and commission vacancies

The City is accepting applications for the following boards, commissions or task forces:

### Application deadline is June 4 at 5 p.m.

- Columbia and Boone County Library District Board
- Commission on Cultural Affairs Standing Committee on Public Art
- Railroad Advisory Board
- Water & Light Advisory Board

Boards and commissions are a way for residents to be involved in local government and to represent the voices of their fellow community members. Applications and information about current vacancies are available at [CoMo.gov](https://www.como.gov). Call 573.874.7208 for more information.

# May Volunteers of the Month: Youth In Action



Youth In Action volunteers mulched the playground at Grasslands Park in the summer of 2020.

As Volunteer Columbia celebrates 25 years in 2021, we look back at some of our long-time volunteers and programs that have served our City.

Youth In Action is a summer volunteer program for young people 12-15 that has been around for nearly 20 years. The program started after City staff got calls from parents looking for ways for their kids to spend extra time in the summer.

Youth In Action volunteers can pick from projects and activities offered throughout the summer and can select what fits their schedule and interests. Projects are coordinated and supervised by City staff.

Even though most Youth In Action volunteers aren't old enough to drive, they still make an impact in our community as they can serve in nearly any role of adult volunteers. Many have continued their volunteer service into adulthood.

To learn more about Youth In Action and other ways to volunteer with the City of Columbia, visit [CoMo.gov](http://CoMo.gov) or call **573.874.2489**.

## Be a tourist in your own city with a local art scavenger hunt

Did you know our city contains over 30 public art pieces? Some you may know well, like *Keys to the City* in front of City Hall. Others require you to look a little harder, like *Wabash 808*, a steel outline of a train at Wabash Station. All the pieces are easy to find, however, using one of three options: paper Public Art Guide brochure picked up from 300 S. Providence Rd., online under, Arts Guides at [CoMoArts.com](http://CoMoArts.com), or through the Otocast App on iTunes or Google Play.

Once you know the locations, you can explore the pieces by accomplishing these five scavenger hunt tasks:

1. Visit at least 10 art pieces
2. Write one haiku inspired by a piece
3. Make a rubbing of the textured surface of one sculpture using crayon or colored pencil
4. Take a selfie with one piece
5. Sketch one piece in your own style

Share your photos along the way on social media with #comoarts and invite your friends along on the ride as you get to know Columbia better!



### OUR VISION

*Columbia is the best place for everyone to live, work, learn and play.*

### OUR MISSION

*To serve the public through democratic, transparent and efficient government.*

### CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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#### CITY OF COLUMBIA

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